



**House Select Committee on
High Speed Internet in Rural Areas**

**October 28, 2009
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ARRA Broadband Initiatives

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009– Broadband Initiatives

Under the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's

National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA)

- State Broadband Data and Development Program (SBDDP)
- Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

Under the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

- Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)



ARRA Broadband Initiatives: SBDDP

State Broadband Data and Development Program (under NTIA)

Purpose:

Broadband Mapping and Planning at the state level

Data to contribute to development of a national broadband map

Criteria:

Each state can designate one entity as eligible applicant to SBDDP for the state

One funding round

20% match required

Notice of Funds Availability released July 2009

Proposals due August 14, 2009

Timeline:

Mapping: project lasts 5 years, but budget and award amount re-assessed after Year 2

Data must be updated every 6 months

Planning: project lasts 5 years



ARRA Broadband Initiatives: BTOP and BIP

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) under NTIA

Purpose & Criteria:

Grant funds for **Broadband Infrastructure** - last mile or middle mile service to unserved and underserved areas (up to \$1.2 B)

Grant funds for **Public Computer Centers** (up to \$50 M)

Grant funds for **Sustainable Broadband Adoption** (demand-building, education, training) (up to \$150 M)

20% match required

States were given an opportunity to prioritize applications submitted to serve their citizens

Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) under USDA-RUS

Purpose & Criteria:

Awards can include grants, loans or grant/load packages for **broadband infrastructure**

Modeled on long-running existing RUS broadband program

States *not* provided an opportunity to suggest recommendations regarding these awards

Joint Notice of Funds Availability released by NTIA and RUS on July 9, 2009

First round of proposals due August 14, 2009

2 additional rounds of funding initially planned; expectation now is for only 1 more round

Second round of proposals expected to be due in spring 2010



Oversight of ARRA Broadband Initiatives in North Carolina

The Governor's Office of Economic Recovery and Investment (OERI) oversees ARRA Broadband Initiatives in North Carolina

The e-NC Authority has been asked by OERI to do the following:

Under SBDDP

- Submit a grant application on behalf of the state for broadband mapping to identify infrastructure needs and planning funds

Under BTOP

- Provide guidance and assistance to local applicants to BTOP for last-mile infrastructure funds
- Develop and submit to BTOP a comprehensive proposal addressing broadband adoption and public computer center initiatives
- Provide administrative support to the OERI and the governor's office on the application review process allowed each state under the BTOP program
- Provide compliance oversight of last-mile projects receiving ARRA funds, under the guidance of the OERI



Explanation of e-NC Mapping and Planning Grant Award

On October 5, e-NC was one of the first four applicants in the nation to receive a mapping and planning grant (under the NTIA's SBDDP)

Project: **NC BRIM** (North Carolina Broadband Rigor in Mapping)

- Mapping – award of \$1,589,077 over 2 years, with possible additional funding for 3 more years
- Planning – award of \$434,799 over 5 years
- The 20% match is being met primarily through e-NC staff time (as this work ties into e-NC's legislative mandate as the state broadband authority), and through match provided by university partners.



NC BRIM Project Elements

Data Collection Requirements from the NTIA

1. **BB Service Availability in Provider's Service Area**
 - a) Availability by Service Address (and Address Ranges)
 - b) Availability by Shapefile (wireless) (w/ max. downstream and upstream)
2. **Residential BB Service Pricing (and Speed)**
3. **BB Service Infrastructure in Provider's Service Area**
 - a) Last-Mile Connection Points (no longer required)
 - b) Middle-Mile and Backbone Interconnection Points
4. **Community Anchor Institutions**

Note – NTIA expects awardees to enter into Non-Disclosure Agreements upon the request of the Broadband Service Providers, in collection of this data.



NC BRIM Project Elements

Data Collection Methods (e-NC)

Mapping Components:

- Service Provider Data from Providers
- Service Provider Data from National Data Corporation
- Wireless Propagation/GIS Modeling
- Broadband Consumer Data – Local Level

Additional collection under Planning piece:

- National Survey Company to look at businesses
- Citizen Surveys (3 surveys over 5 years)

All data will be housed with e-NC, allowing the opportunity for verification and assessment by the state.

e-NC will use e-NC's existing online GIS-based map as the platform for these data updates.



NC BRIM Project Elements

Verification and Assessments (e-NC)

The results from the multiple data collection methods will be tested and cross-validated through comparison of these multiple methods. The e-NC Authority's staff will work with multiple experts in conducting this research and in the assessments.

Outside Researchers

- A statistics expert from ECU will serve as a research advisor for e-NC throughout the mapping grant, and will conduct the Citizen Surveys and advise on the Broadband Consumer Data process.
- A marketing expert from the UNC-CH Kenan Institute will oversee the BB Consumer Data Study
- A GIS expert from UNC-G will perform the Wireless Propagation/GIS Modeling work.

External Evaluators

3 external evaluators will work with e-NC in year 1 to assess the various data collection methodologies. The NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) will also serve as a technical advisor and evaluator on the mapping.

Technical Advisory Committee and Data Confab

A Technical Advisory Committee will also work with e-NC to review and assess these methodologies. In March 2010, e-NC will hold a Data Confab, with these evaluators and the technical advisory committee to determine which data collection methods are most cost effective, for report back to NTIA.



NC BRIM Project Elements

Data Collection Deadlines from NTIA

Initial Data

- **Nov 1, 2009** substantially complete set of *availability data* due by Nov. 1 (data accurate as of [June 30, 2009](#))
- **Feb 1, 2010** *substantially complete set of all broadband mapping data* due on or before Feb 1 ([June 30, 2009](#) data)
- **Mar 1, 2010** *all data collection* must be completed by Mar 1 ([June 30, 2009](#) data)

Updates

Optimized data collection methodology will be employed to updating of data on at least a semi-annual basis continuing for at least 5 years after the date of the initial collection.

- **Sept 1, 2010** first update due ([Dec 31, 2009](#) data and [June 30, 2010](#))
- **Mar 1** of subsequent years updates due (data current as of [Dec 31](#) of previous yr)
- **Sept 1** of subsequent years updates due (data current as of [June 30](#) of that year)



NC BRIM Project Elements - Planning

- Citizen Surveys (three over 5 years)
- Survey on Broadband/Businesses
- Public Computer Access Revisited
- Lifeline Online Program
- Last Mile RoundUp Broadband Project
- Virtual Forum for Vulnerable Populations
- Regional Business Online Forum
- N.C. Broadband Idea Group (NC BIG)



e-NC

Items Moving Forward

Next Steps:

Mapping – e-NC is negotiating NDAs and initiating data collection from all sources in an effort to evaluate multi-method data collection efforts

Planning – focused on engaging many sectors and populations in the state in these efforts, especially on Lifeline Online and Last Mile RoundUp projects

BTOP Grants – focused on trying to ensure that these grants are impacting unserved rural areas, looking at how to better assist organizations with their proposal development for 2nd round of funding, continuing to provide NTIA-compliant maps for specific proposals





*Connecting
North Carolina
to a Better Future*

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